

Southern Division of Kánara.

83. The cause of the fires is ascribed to the spreading of the fires lit by the villagers in their *bén* (adjuncts of cultivation) numbers, and another, the chief one, is that people wilfully set fire to obtain an early crop of grass.

84. The results of fire-protection in the Belgaum Division compare very favourably with those of the previous years, in spite of a very dry and unfavourable year. A successful attempt was made to prevent the annual fires which sweep across the forests to the west. Of the area specially protected, 1,558 acres were burnt in Khánápur and 600 acres in Belgaum. The area was filled with long dry grass which was very inflammable.

Dhárwár.

85. Although distressed cattle were admitted into all the closed portions of the Reserves except plantations, the increase in the area burnt was comparatively small.

86. Mr. MacGregor records that during his hot-weather tour of 1892 he particularly noted the rareness of fires in the Central and Northern Divisions of Kánara. Even in the areas not specially protected fires were much less frequent than usual.

GRAZING AND FENCING.

87. The year's revenue from grazing shows an increase of Rs. 18,678; it amounted to Rs. 91,487 against 72,809 of the previous year. The increase occurs mostly in Dhárwár and Belgaum, and is due to the revised scale of fees levied under the Grazing Regulations sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 3595 of 23rd May 1890, now first introduced.

88. Owing to the prevailing scarcity of fodder all the forests were thrown open for free-grazing. But these orders were issued two or three months after the new system was introduced. Had the regulations been uniformly carried out, the revenue would have been still larger. The new rules could not be brought into force in Bijápur, owing to the failure of the rainfall and consequent fodder famine.

89. An increase is also noticeable in the grazing receipts of Kánara, where a higher rate of fee was sanctioned for outside cattle, and those belonging to professional graziers. Cattle from the plain districts were driven into the Kánara forests, and there they were permitted freely to graze in "Protected" forests, fees only being collected from the wealthy owners. Orders were received that, if necessary, these cattle should also be allowed to graze in the "Reserved" forests.

90. The areas closed to grazing during 1890-91 and 1891-92 were as shown below :—

Divisions.	Area closed.			
	1890-91.		1891-92.	
	Sq. miles.	Acres.	Sq. miles.	Acres.
Northern Division of Kánara ...	190	214	190	214
Central do. do. ...	81	455	81	455
Southern do. do. ...	123	629	123	629
Belgaum do. ...	24	536	23	487
Dhárwár do. ...	90	307	8	109
Bijápur do. ...	43	291	
Kolába do. ...	6	567	6	567
Ratnágiri do. ...	20	79	20	79
Total ...	581	518	454	620